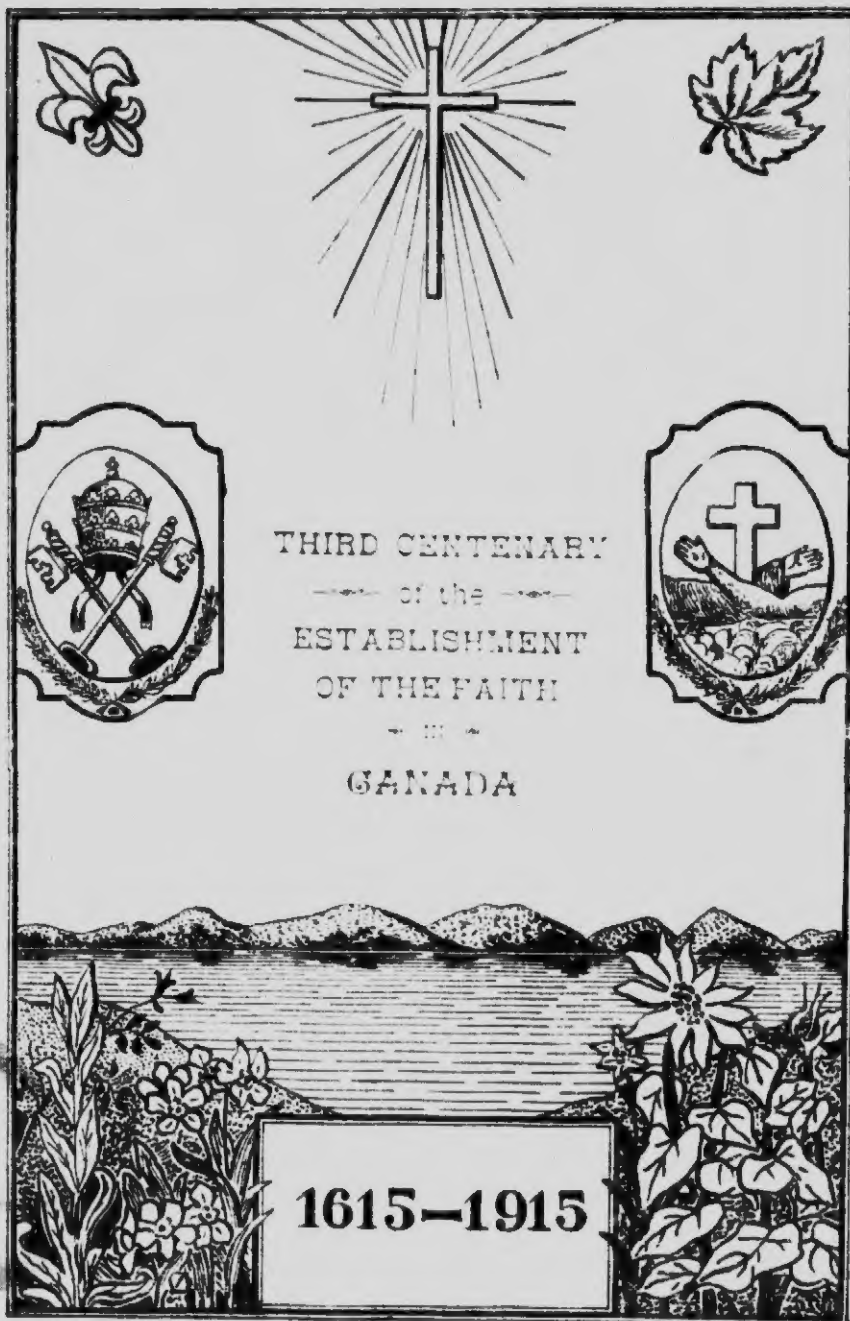


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J. Gendron Dessinateur

SOUVENIR-ALBUM

THIRD CENTENARY

OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FAITH IN CANADA

1615-1915

PUBLISHED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR THE MONUMENT OF THE FAITH

QUEBEC

FRANCISCAN MISSIONARY PRINTING PRESS

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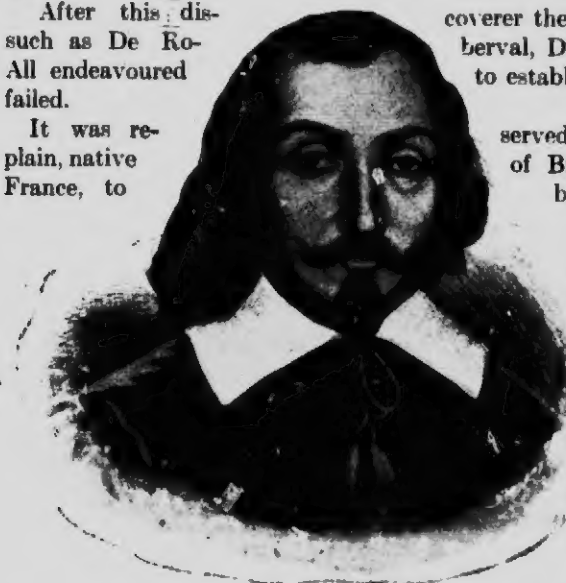
SOUVENIR-ALBUM

TERCENTENARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FAITH IN CANADA

It was in 1534 and 1535 that the Breton navigator Jacques Cartier discovered Canada. He was a fervent Catholic, and one loves to recall that memorable scene which took place just before his voyage of 1535, and which shows us Jacques Cartier and the members of his crew gathered together in the cathedral of Saint-Malo on Whitsun day, May 16th, 1535, receiving the blessing of the Bishop and recommending to God, Lord of the seas and of the winds, the journey he was about to undertake.

After this discovery such as De Ro-All endeavoured failed.

It was re-plain, native France, to



coverer there came many others, berval, De Chastes, De Monts. to establish a colony and all

served for Samuel Cham- of Brouage in Saintonge, be the founder of a great French colony in North America, the Father of "La Nouvelle France."

Champlain began his work with the foundation of Quebec in 1608. By this first establishment of a colony, the intrepid explorer gave his mother country, "la

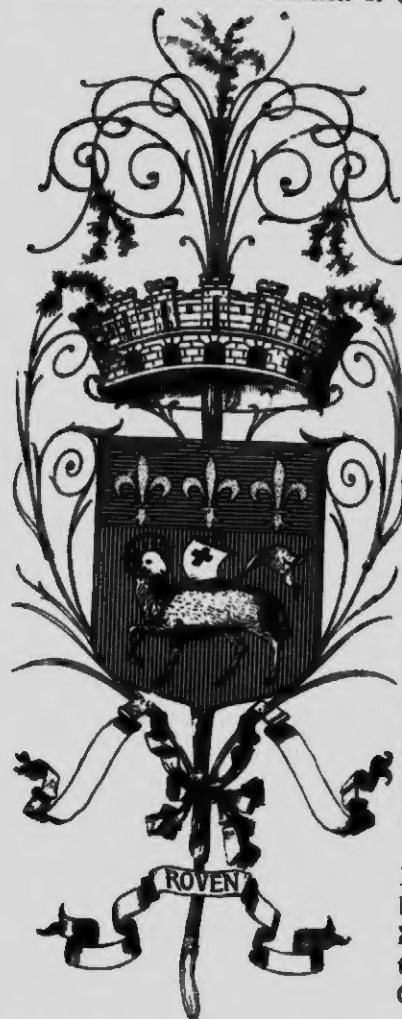
belle France", a vast territory hitherto unexplored. It was a great accomplishment. But it was not the only feat that the great man dreamed of. He yearned to bring to those Indians, half-clad, ignorant children of the forest, the saving grace of Christianity and the alleviations that go with Civilization.

For several years he labored at his project, but it was not until 1614, six years after the foundation of Quebec, that he succeeded. It was then that he met with a band of missionaries, men after his own heart, "full of zeal for the uplifting of souls and affection for the Glory of God." They were the Franciscan Friars, or Recollects, as they were then called.

The Recollects were one of the four branches of the Franciscans whom one same Minister-General governed with the title of Minister-General of the whole Order of Friars-Minor. The name of Recollect has ceased to exist since 1897, when the Pope Leo XIII convinced that the benefits accruing to the Church and to souls from the apostolic ministry of the Friars would be more abundant and more lasting if, as in the early days of the Order, the union were more perfect, amalgamated all the branches of the Order under the name, chosen by the Seraphic Patriarch himself, and so expressive of their unity, of Friars Minor or Franciscans.

On March 15th, 1615, the four Franciscans who were destined to be the first Apostles in Canada, left Paris and set out on foot for the city of Rouen. Here they met Champlain and deliberated together concerning the coming voyage.

It was decided that they should set out from the port of Honfleur, for in those days and for many years before, Honfleur was a port of great maritime importance. It was owing to the devastations of war,





THE TOWN OF HONFLEUR

at the time of the departure of the Recollects for Canada.

to moving sand-banks and the strong currents at the mouth of the Seine, that the old historic port was abandoned in favor of Le Havre.



The voyage was a prosperous one, and a month after, May 25th, feast of the Translation of the body of St. Francis of Assisi, they cast anchor in the Gulf of the St. Lawrence opposite Tadoussac.

Tadoussac was the first spot on Canadian soil to receive the Franciscan Missionaries. It was here that these valiant pioneers of the Faith first caught sight of the savages whom they had come to evangelize. It was here too, that they witnessed the death and torture of an Indian prisoner and gained an idea of the inhuman cruelties they would be subjected to if ever they fell into disgrace with this barbarous people.

Whilst waiting there for favorable winds, our first missionaries occupied their time in preparing the sailors and all hands for the perilous voyage. Champlain tells us how they examined their conscience and cleansed themselves of their sins, because they wished to be in the state of grace in order to be more free in exposing themselves to the mercy of the winds and the waves on that great and perilous sea. The departure took place on April 24th, about five o'clock in the evening. Their boat was the *Saint-Etienne*, a vessel of 350 tons, commanded by François Gravé Sieur du Pont.





TADOUSSAC

"Crouching in a hollow of the rugged steep of the Laurentians, Tadoussac is like a nest of verdure encircled by sterile and desolate wastes. The upland which serves it for a pedestal is so shaped that from one side the waters of the great river beat unceasingly upon its pebbly beach, and that from the other the dark stream of the Saguenay comes to die away in a bay carpeted with a sand so fine and so soft that there is no beach to be compared with it."

J.-E. Roy, *Voyage au pays de Tadoussac*.

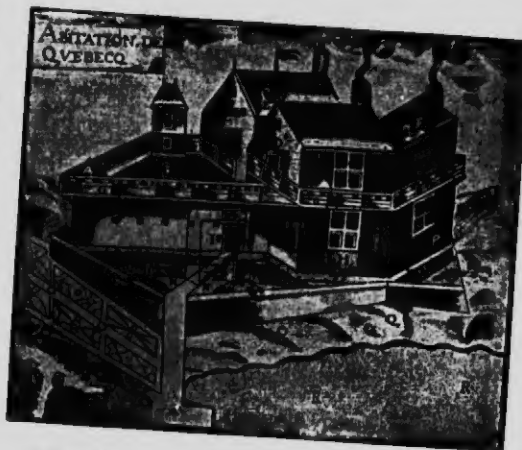
But to Quebec was destined the honor of being the cradle of the Church in Canada. Here the grain of mustard-seed of which the Master spoke was to be cast into the earth, and though at first it was small and almost imperceptible, still it was to develop into a great tree and spread its branches far and wide.

Quebec in 1615, was composed of one fortified house with its dependencies, built by Champlain who called it the "Habitation."

1615-1915. It is 300 years ago since the first missionaries set foot in Canada. It is just three centuries ago since those heroic Franciscans sowed the seed of our greatness by establishing a colony whose people were destined to progress because they were imbued with faith in Christianity and guided by the light of the Gospel.

The great deeds of our history, and the salient facts of our existence as Catholics and as a nation, form a sacred and glorious heirloom of which we must always be justly proud, and of which we must know how to take advantage for keeping up and for strengthening in the souls of the Canadian people, the Catholic spirit which is its special characteristic.

And since the nation celebrated in 1908 the imperishable memory of the founder of the Canadian mother-land, may we not rightly sound the praises of those who were Champlain's most zealous helpers, and who gave to his undertaking that element of its wonderful vitality, the Catholic Faith?



A. Store-house. — B. Dove-cot. — CD. Main Building. — E. Dial. — F. Forge. — G. Gallery. — H. Champlain's Apartments. — I. House-door and Drawbridge. — L. Walk ten feet wide. — M. Ditch. — N. Platform for canon. O. Champlain's Garden. — P. Kitchen. — Q. Open space reaching to the River. — R. River St. Lawrence.

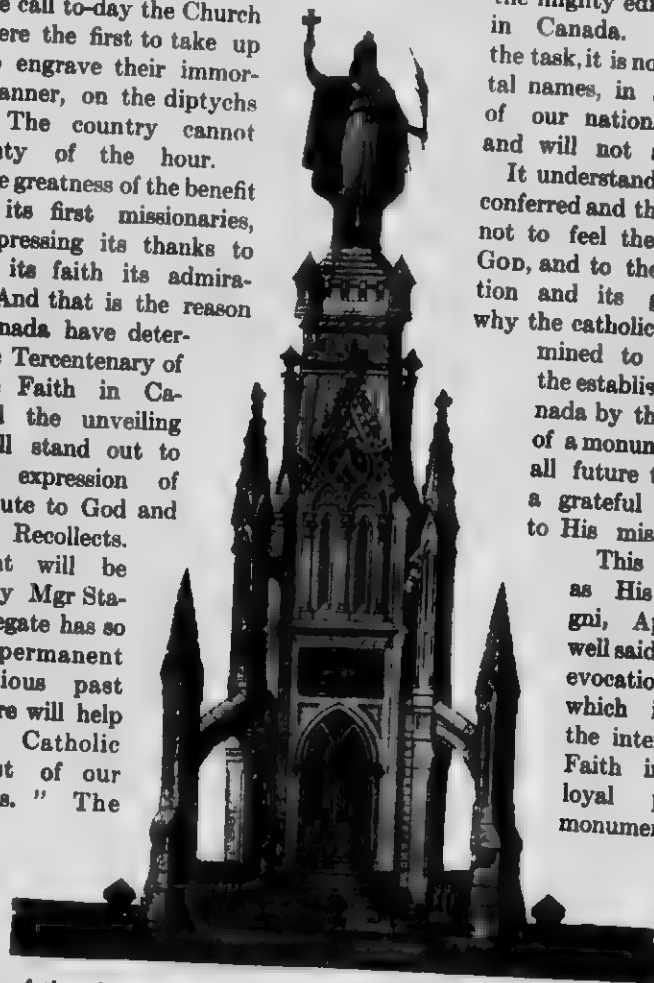
Yes, certainly, it is our solemn duty, in this Third Centenary, to remember those valiant apostles, those workmen chosen by Divine Providence, those Friars who in 1615, at the cost of painful and un-seen toil lay the foundations of we call to-day the Church were the first to take up to engrave their immortal names, in an official manner, on the diptychs of our national glories. The country cannot and will not avoid the duty of the hour.

It understands too well the greatness of the benefit conferred and the heroism of its first missionaries, not to feel the need of God, and to the pioneers expressing its thanks to God, and to the pioneers of its faith its gratitude. And that is the reason why the catholic people of

Canada have determined to signalize the Tercentenary of the Faith in Canada by the raising of a monument that shall stand out to all future times as a tribute to God and the Recollects. a grateful people's to His missionaries ment will be lency Mgr St-Delegate has so a permanent glorious past future will help the Catholic midst of our tions. " The

the mighty edifice which in Canada. As they the task, it is now the time tal names, in an official of our national glories. and will not avoid the It understands too well conferred and the heroism not to feel the need of God, and to the pioneers tion and its gratitude. why the catholic people of

This Monument as His Excellency, Apostolic Delegate well said: "like evocation of a which in the the interests of Faith in the loyal population will monument will



speaking of the charity of the Church which watched over the cradle of the "noble Canadian Nation" and which does not cease to protect it in its happy development through the ages. "

"It will also be," writes His Eminence Cardinal Begin, "a public and lasting testimony of our irrevocable attachment to the teaching of the Church, and of our absolute submission to the Sovereign Pontiff, Vicar of Jesus Christ."

The Monument will take the shape of an ornamental fountain in granite and bronze. It will be 37 feet high; the four sides exactly similar. The but-
each with two
ing the basins.
of the monument
opening divided
column, the wa-
a rock, glides
sides, and then
basin to the ground.
of the monument there
cent statue symbolizing
out, as with inspired
peoples of Canada. With
extends to all the sym-
tion, the Cross. In her
the palm of victory
and seems prepared to
the individual and to the
worthy of it by its fidelity.
to our "Faith" is likewise
Recollects. To exalt the
our light and the source of
prosperity is to exalt the
it. Hence it is that on
a plate of bronze which
of the first our Fran-
The leader of the
rior, was Father Denis
great virtue and of ex-
says of himself that the work he held most dearly to heart was
"the conversion of the savages in Canada." A bas-relief on the
monument shows him celebrating the first Mass said by the Recollects
on the Island of Montreal. This First Mass was said on June the
24th, 1615, on the banks of the Laprairie River. A Monument was



tresses are adorned
gargoyles replenish-
From the interior
through an arched
into two by a little
ter bubbles up from
down along its
falls from basin to

On the summit
stands a magnifi-
"Faith." She gazes
look, upon all the
her right hand she
bol of our Redemp-
left hand she holds
promised to the just
present it both to
nation that proves

This Monument
a monument to the
Faith that has been
our civilisation and
heroes who brought
the monument stands
will bear the names
ciscan missionaries.
band and its supe-
Jamet, a religious of
traordinary zeal. He



† 1615 - 1915 †



A NOS PREMIERS MISSIONNAIRES,

LES RÉCOLLETS:

DENYS JAMET | JEAN DOLBEAU
JOSEPH LE CARON | PACIFIQUE DUPLESSIS



LES CANADIENS RECONNAISSANTS.



erected in the village of Ahuntsic this year commemorating the first Mass and recounting the death of Father Nicolas Viel, Franciscan, first martyr in Canada.

Father John Dolbeau was a true apostle, a man inflamed with love for God and zeal for souls. He was born in Anjou, France, and was thirty years of age when he came to Canada. He can be truly styled "the first Parish Priest of Quebec." It was he who had charge of the Ministry there in 1615 and it was he who built in Quebec the first Chapel ever erected on Canadian soil.

In this chapel, built with logs of wood coarsely shaped, we must recognise and hail with emotion the Mother of those innumerable churches, cathedrals and basilicas which are to-day the most beautiful ornament as well as the purest glory of Canada and the United States.

After several years labor among the Indians, he returned to his native land where he died on June 9, 1612, at the age of 66 years and 2 months. Another bas-relief of the Monument perpetuates his memory by portraying his arrival at Quebec with Champlain, June 2, 1615.

Father Joseph Le Caron, born near Paris in France, was first a secular priest and tutor to the Duke of Orleans: he entered the Franciscan Order in 1610. He is one of the most remarkable and sympathetic figures of all the Recollects who arrived in Canada from 1615 to 1629. He became the first Apostle of the Hurons and went to live with them

immediately after his arrival here in 1615. Alone of white men he set out on the long journey of 700 miles up the Ottawa River, through the many lakes, paddling incessantly day and night, suffering from the stings of myriads of mosquitos, as he tells us himself, he "had the look of a hideous leper." First of white men and of missionaries, he penetrated in to the regions of the Great Lakes and beached his canoe on Penetanguishene Bay.



On August 12th, 1615, with Champlain (who had come later) and a few Frenchmen present, Father Le Caron offered the first Mass in Ontario, in his little cabin at Carhagouha, near the Georgian Bay. The event was worthily commemorated this year by His Grace, Archbishop Mc Neil of Toronto, who said the Tercentenary Mass on the spot where Fr. Le Caron had said it 300 years before. His Grace delicately invited two Franciscans to be present and to speak in French and English.

Father Le Caron did yeoman's service among the Indians. He learned several of their languages and, what is especially noteworthy, compiled a dictionary in the Huron tongue. The devoted missionary returned to France in 1629 and though he thus revisited his native-land, his heart remained with his beloved Hurons. He was to see them no more. He died at Trie, near Gisors, March 29th, 1632 in sentiments of profoundest piety at the age of 46 years. A third bas-relief on the Monument depicts Father Le Caron sojourning among the Hurons.

Brother Pacificus Duplessis was an apothecary before he became a Recollect Lay-Brother. He was endowed with a remarkable spirit of charity, and by his professional knowledge and his inexhaustible devotedness he rendered invaluable service to the nascent colony. His death took place at Quebec, August 23rd 1319.



PAINTING OF MR. BEAU, LEGISLATURE ASSEMBLY, QUEBEC.

This painting of Mr. Beau does not recall a single historical fact, but synthesizes several events bearing on the civilization and evangelization of Canada.

In 1615, Pope Paul V, governed the Church, and it was with his special approval that the Recollects set out for their work of evangelization.



In 1915, Pope Benedict XV. presides over the destinies of the Church, and it is with the special Apostolic Blessing of this August Pontiff, that Canada commemorates to-day the primordials of her Christianity.

Louis XIII., King of France, made a personal appeal to the General of the Franciscans in order to obtain the Missionaries chosen by Champlain. The Royal request was acceded to by Fr. Anthony of Treia, then acting as Vicar-General of the Order.



The actual Minister General of the Franciscan Order is the Most Rev. Fr. Seraphin Cimino, a man of wide experience. He enjoys a great reputation for learning, and what is more for eminent virtue. Born at Capri in the Diocese of Sorrento, Italy, October 30rd 1875, he is only forty years of age. He belongs to the Franciscan Province of Principato (Naples). Endowed with exceptional intellectual ability he taught Holy Scripture for eleven years in the Collegio Sant Antonio.

Rome. Elected Definitor general in 1908, he held that office until October 1911. He was devoting himself to the ministry of souls in the United States when in 1913 he was called upon to fill the extremely delicate position of Custos for the Holy Land. At Jerusalem, he had won by his precious qualities of mind and heart universal esteem, when on May 22nd of the current year, he was chosen by the General Chapter to govern the whole Franciscan Order.

In this task he is aided by six counsellors or Definitors-General, one whom is the Very Rev. Fr. Colom-ban-M. Dreyer, so widely known and greatly esteemed in Canada.

Our first missionaries made every effort and were undaunted by hardships in their earnest endeavors to direct the French colonist, in the path of duty, and to implant the Catholic Faith in the souls of the uncouth and savage Indians.





As we said above, the first Martyr in Canada was Fr. Nicolas Viel, who while returning from the land of the Hurons was drowned by a band of savages in the Rapids of the Des Prairies River. With him was a Christian Indian, named Ahuntsic, who perished with his spiritual adviser. Their memory is perpetuated by the names of two towns on the Island of Montreal. One is called "Sault-au-Récollet" and the other "Ahuntsic," after the Martyrs, in whose honour two monuments have been raised in the first-named place.



LEVEL MONUMENT



BASE-RELIEF OF THE LAVAL MONUMENT

The monument to the Venerable Mgr François de Montmorency-Laval, first Bishop of Quebec, was solemnly unveiled, June 22th, 1908.

The arrival in Canada of Mgr. de Laval in 1658, brought a happy culmination to the evangelical work which had been inaugurated by the Recollects and continued by the Jesuits and the Sulpicians. The ecclesiastical hierarchy was complete. The Church of Quebec began thus its glorious role in the history of North America.

On one of the bas-reliefs of the Laval Monument is what may be called an epitome of the establishment of the Faith in Canada. We find a Recollect Friar, reminding us of the first missionaries of 1615, at his side is a son of St. Ignatius, recalling to mind the Jesuits who arrived in Canada in 1625. In the centre of the pannel stands out the first Bishop of New France, Mgr. de Laval the organiser of the catholic parish in Canada, and the Founder of the Church of



Quebec. Mgr. de Laval is the crowning and completing factor of the work of the missionaries, his precursors. But in the establishment of the Faith and in the spreading of it in this country all social classes had their part. That is why Mgr. Laval is surrounded by the Clergy of the Seminary, and of the Parishes, rural Seigneurs, citizens, and the humble tillers of the soil. Nor are the devoted Nuns of the teaching Orders and the Hospitals absent from the tableau. For they too had their glorious share in the triumph of the Faith in Canada.

Writing to the Recollects in 1670, on the occasion of their return to the colony, Mgr de Laval pays this tribute to our First Missionaries. "So fervent was the zeal of your predecessors, so exemplary their life, so indefatigable were they in their work of propagating the faith, that in less than 4 years, with the assistance of God Who helps all who trust in Him, they penetrated into the hearts of the forests and instructed the savage children of the woods, right to the extremity of the lands washed by the mighty river. The work of evangelisation which with the help of divine grace the religious of your Province have carried out in this new part of the world, with the authority of the Supreme Pontiffs and the good pleasure of His most Christian Majesty, Louis XIII king of France, of happy memory, is a more than sufficient title for the foundation which you now undertake."

The Church in Canada, established by our first Missionaries, definitely and wisely organised by Mgr. de Laval, has gone on from pro-



gress to progress until it has attained a development that is almost marvellous. To-day, ten Archbishops and thirty-six Bishops share in the succession of the first Bishop of New France. Thousands of Priests, of the Secular and Regular Clergy, continue, with un-tiring devotedness, the work of our first Missionaries. Numerous Religious Communities exercise everywhere their salutary influence.

It is not to be wondered at if the echoes of this extraordinary progress have reached to the limits of the earth. Rome

itself, Mother of all Churches, has been pleased to show her appreciation of it by raising to the dignity of the Cardinalate the Archbishops of Quebec, Mgr. E. A. Taschereau and Mgr. L. N. Bégin. This supreme distinction accorded by the Vicar of Jesus Christ to the Church in Canada is also a fitting acknowledgment of the personal merits of the present Arch-Bishop of Quebec. He has well deserved this distinction by his vast and deep learning, by his untiring zeal to promote the glory of God, the honor of the Church, and the salvation of souls.

Let us also call attention to the establishment in Canada, in 1899, of a permanent Apostolic Delegation. The honor of being the first Apostolic Delegate in this country fell to a Franciscan, Monsignor



Diomedea Falconio. Having fulfilled his duties with perfect tact during three years, Monsignor Falconio was called to fill the same important position in the United States. His Holiness Pius X. of saintly memory, raised him to the dignity of Cardinal in 1911.

The actual representative of the Holy See in Canada is Monsignor P. F. Stagni, of the Order of Servites. Born in 1852, ordained priest in 1881, he has been successively Superior-General of his Order, Professor



at the Propaganda, Consultor for the Holy-Office, Bishop in 1907, Apostolic Delegate for Canada in November 1910.

It is only proper then, to offer to God a hymn of thanksgiving for the Faith, and for its many triumphs during the last 300 years.

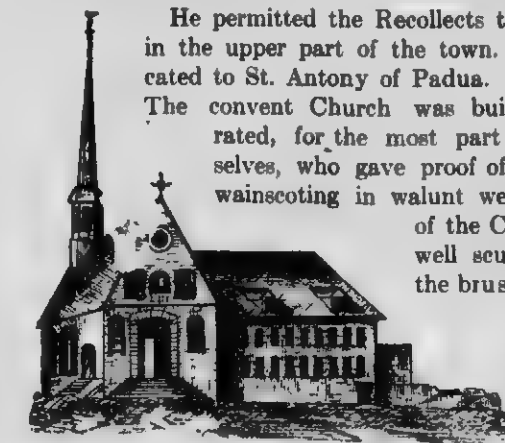
The celebration of the Tercentenary will take place at Quebec where our first Missionaries pitched their tent. The commemorative Monument will stand on the precise spot where the Recollects led their penitent and apostolic life, up to the end of the 18th century.

In 1620, the Recollects built a convent and dedicated it to Our Lady of the Angels. It stood on the banks of the St. Charles River. In 1670, they began to rebuild their convent on the same spot. In 1692, Mgr. de St. Vallier converted it into the General Hospital.

He permitted the Recollects to have a regular convent in the upper part of the town. This convent was dedicated to St. Antony of Padua.

The convent Church was built and tastefully decorated, for the most part by the Recollects themselves, who gave proof of much artistic talent. A wainscoting in walnut went all round the interior of the Church and was extremely well sculptured : paintings from the brush of the well-known brother

Luke adorned the walls : the windows were of colored glass. The whole of the building was well-proportion-



ed ; the steeple was high and elegant.



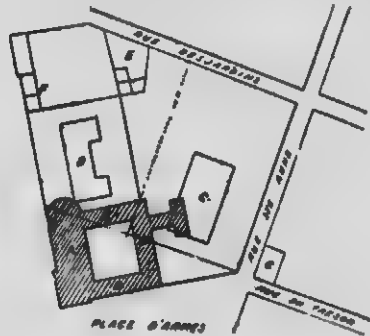
THE CHURCH OF THE RECOLLECTS, QUEBEC, RESTORED.

The Church was greatly damaged during the siege of Quebec in 1759. It is not without interest to determine the exact site occupied by the

Convent and Church of the Recollects in the upper town at Quebec.

Mr Ernest Gagnon in Appendix No 4 of his report on Public Works, 1897, describes to perfection the situation occupied by the Convent :

"The tower of the Recollect Church stood on the exact spot where now stands the principal entrance to the Court House. (Palais de Justice) The main body of the church was on Place d'Armes. The convent, adjoining the church, was, for the greater part, also built on Place d'Armes ; a small portion of it was on land now occupied by the Court House, and another small portion on the site of the present Anglican Church."



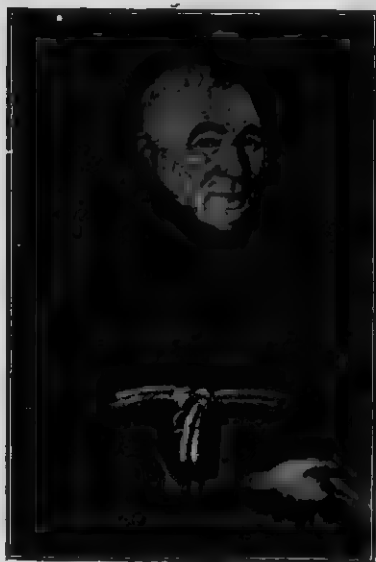
JOS. BOUCHETTE'S PLAN

A. Recollects' Church ; B. B. B. Convent ; C. Anglican Church ; D. Court-House.



THE CHURCH OF THE RECOLLECTS, RESTORED

After the war of 1759, the Recollects restored their church which was used for public service until 1796 when on September 8, a terrible fire destroyed both Church and Convent.



The last Recollect Priest was Father Louis Demers. He died at Montreal, September 2, 1813, at the age of 81 years and 8 months.

The government had forbidden both Jesuits and Recollects to recruit new subjects for their missions in this country. In spite of the law, clearly an unjust one, the Recollects had received and professed several members. The Civil Authority at last raised its voice in protestation.

The destruction of the convent by fire in 1796 rendered the situation still more critical; so that Monsignor Hubert by faculties received from Rome allowed those Recollects who had made their

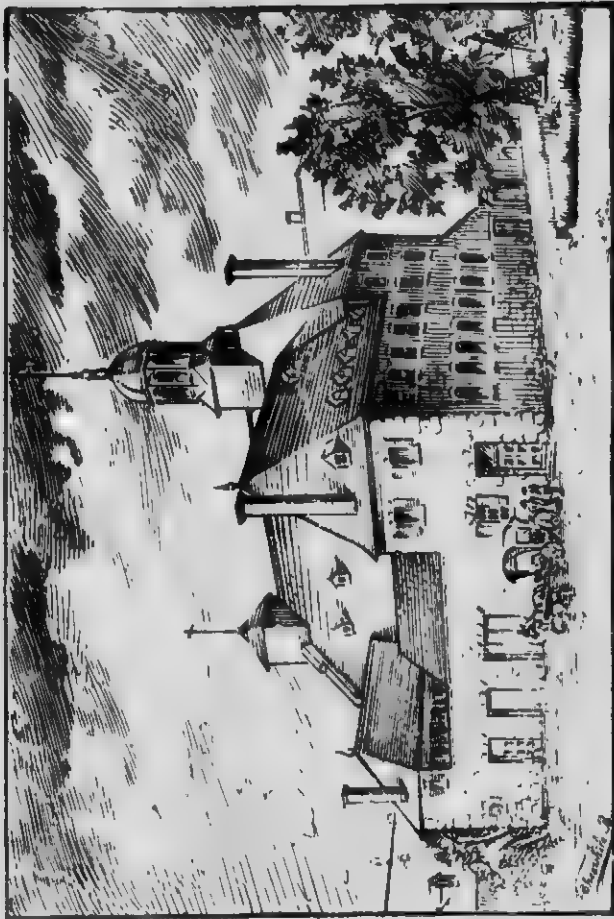
profession since 1784 to return to the world under certain conditions. The Bishop of Quebec allowed those who wished, to keep their religious habit, and many wore it with respect and joy until their death. Thanks to them the Franciscan robe did not disappear from Canada until the middle of the 19th Century. The people held them in profound veneration and, so to speak, concentrated upon them that sincere and constant esteem which they had shown to the good Recollect Fathers.

The last Recollect at Quebec, Brother Louis Martinet, was buried in the Church of St. Roch, Quebec, on the 12th of August 1848, aged 83 years and 8 months.





The last Recollect at Montreal, Brother Paul Fournier, native of the town, died there on the 15th of November 1848, at the age of 78 years and 10 months. This portrait of Brother Paul is reproduced from a painting kept in the Arch-Bishop's Palace at Montreal.



CONVENT AND CHURCH OF THE RECOLLECTS MONTREAL.

In 1818, these buildings were bought by the parish of Notre-Dame. The parish-priest, Mr Le Saulnier, in his appeal to the generosity of the people, said : "Tis an ancient church very dear to you ... wherein many good works have been done, and where repose many holy religious who have edified the country. You will deserve for yourselves and for your families the special protection of St. Anthony, who has worked and still works thousands of miracles." The Convent of the Recollects, at Montreal was sold in 1867, and was demolished together with the church.



RECOLLECTS' CONVENT, THREE RIVERS

The Recollects possessed three convents in Canada, viz. in Quebec, Montreal and Three Rivers. The last-named alone still subsists to-day. After the departure of its rightful occupants the civil authorities handed over this property to the Anglican Church. The convent has thus become the residence of a protestant minister and the church has been given over to protestant services.

Beneath the floor of the profaned sanctuary repose the precious remains of Brother Didacus Pelletier, Canadian Recollect renowned for his holiness and miracles.

Nevertheless, with the death of the last Recollects, the sons of Francis of Assisi had not disappeared for ever from Canada. They were singled out to return and to continue their apostolate in the land they had evangelized as pioneers. Several times, the Franciscans had been invited to return to Canada, notably by the saintly Bishop of Montreal, Mgr. Bourget. In 1881, Reverend Father Frederick, whose name is held in veneration and respect, arrived in this country and sojourned eight months. The same priest began, in 1888, the restoration of the Franciscan Order in Canada when he founded a Commissariate for the Holy Land at Three Rivers.



REV. FR. FREDERIC.

Commissary of the Holy Land, in Canada.

The arrival in Canada of Reverend Father Frederick was an epoch-making event ; and was hailed with much favor by numerous reviews and newspapers of the time.

Monsignor Lafèche, in whose diocese the Commissariate of the Holy Land was going to be established, in a letter of June 11th 1888, expressed to his vicar, Father Désilets, Parish-priest of Cap-de-la-Madeleine, his happiness at the coming of Reverend Father Frederick. The Bishop was making his pastoral visit at the time.



COMMISSARIATE OF THE HOLY LAND. THREE RIVERS

"I learn with pleasure," he writes, "that Reverend Father Frederick and his companion have reached New-York and will soon be in Three Rivers. Welcome to them both ! and may they bring to us once more those blessings which their fathers before them, two hundred and fifty years ago, brought to this land of Canada and particularly to Three Rivers. Tell them that while awaiting the pleasure of seeing them, I pray the Almighty to shower down upon themselves and upon the work which they have come to establish in my diocese and which will spread over the whole of Canada, His most abundant blessings.

The correspondent at Cap-de-la-Madeleine of the *Journal des Trois-Rivières*, writes September 20th 1888 : "We enjoy the advantage of having in our midst here at Cap-de-la-Madeleine, Reverend Father Frederick, Commissary of the Holy Land for the whole Dominion of Canada : by a decision of the superiors of the Order sanctioned by the



INTERIOR OF FRANCISCAN CHURCH, MONTREAL

Holy See the Commissariate is and will remain in the town of Three-Rivers : but until the construction of his humble residence, already begun, is completed, the Reverend Father has accepted to make his abode with us and remain here during the whole of the month of the most Holy Rosary. This venerable son of the illustrious patriarch of Assisi is gifted with a touching eloquence. His speech is gentle

easy, and captivating. Seeing him in his poor Franciscan robe, his ascetic bearing, and listening to his ever pious considerations, make one feel that he lives habitually in a superior and heavenly atmosphere."

The perfect re-establishment of Franciscan life in Canada dates from 1890 when the Franciscans opened a convent in Montreal. The *Semaine Religieuse* of the commercial metropolis welcomed their return in these words : "Welcome to these holy religious in the country which they were the first to evangelise. Their absence has seemed very long to us and we ardently desired to see them take up once more amongst us their ministry of zeal, piety and edification. Their memory has remained alive among our people, and our aged folk still relate many edifying traits about the former Recollects."

By a strange disposition of Providence it is just 25 years ago, this

year, since the return took place. The Franciscan Fathers opened their house in Montreal in 1890. They dwelt at first in a poor and humble residence on Richmond Street, rented to them under easy conditions by the parish-priest of St. Joseph's Church.

Two years later they went to their present convent of St. Joseph, on Dorchester Street.



FRANCISCAN PRIORY, QUEBEC.

In 1900, Quebec, cradle of the Franciscan Order in Canada, joyfully witnessed the return within its walls of the legitimate successors of its first missionaries. Then it was that Reverend Father Ange-Marie Hiral founded the beautiful new convent and church which stand on the Hill Saint-Genevieve in that quarter of the city now called Belvédère.

May Canada always keep intact the sacred treasure which the Recollects brought her in 1615. May the Tercentenary celebrations of the establishment of their Faith be for our people a promise of eternal faithfulness to God Who has been so generous to them during three hundred years.



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